EVENTS

Ripley Chapel presents Rachel Sumner and Traveling Light

February 4, 2026 . 6:00 AM — 2 min read

Rachel Sumner and Traveling Light, a Boston-based string band, were the winners of the 2025 Telluride Bluegrass Band Contest. COURTESY PHOTO/RACHEL SUMNER AND TRAVELING LIGHT/ORION WILLITS PHOTOGRAPHY

The following was submitted by Ripley Chapel:

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On Friday, Feb. 6, live in person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel, First Congregational Church is pleased to present Rachel Sumner and Traveling Light, a Boston-based string band making music that blends folk tradition with feminist storytelling, poetic detail, and just enough grit, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

At the center is Sumner's songwriting — rooted in history, myth, and personal reckoning — carried by close harmonies, upright bass, acoustic guitar, and fiddle. The trio features Kat Wallace on fiddle and vocals and Mike Siegel on upright bass and vocals, whose playing brings both tension and tenderness to the sound. Their sound is spare and intimate, sometimes eerie, sometimes sweet, always intentional. They call it Femericana—sharp-edged Americana with a splash of feminine rage.

Radium Girls (Curie Eleison) // Rachel Sumner [official music video]

Sumner has performed at the Library of Congress, where five of her original songs are now archived, and was a 2024 winner of the Kerrville New Folk competition. Her song "Radium Girls (Curie Eleison)" struck a nerve—streamed over 300,000 times and picked up by dancers, theater directors, and deep listeners who saw themselves in its story. It's

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tattooed on arms, sung in audition rooms, and carried into classrooms and protests. The kind of song people hold onto.

Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light has toured coast to coast, bringing their spellbinding live show to listening rooms, libraries, farms, and festivals across the country. They've appeared at Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, Earl Scruggs Festival, IBMA, and legendary folk listening rooms like Caffé Lena and Club Passim, where their shows have become a staple of the Boston folk scene.

Their latest release, "The Traveling Light Sessions," reimagines Sumner's studio album "Heartless Things" — recorded live around one microphone with no overdubs. Just the way they play it.

Tickets: $20 for adult (both live in person and live streamed); $5 for students with ID.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Ripley Chapel can be found at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St. The entry is located on the Vine Street side of the church. Please use the accessible ramp entrance, and Ripley Chapel will be directly to your right as you enter the building.

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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trivia competition that will raise money for Winchester schools. The Winchester Foundation for Educational Excellence (WFEE), a nonprofit that provides grants for Winchester's public schools, will host its 23rd annual trivia bee March 11

TAVISHI CHATTOPADHYAY | CORRESPONDENT
February 24, 2026

Monday, March 2, 2026, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Winchester Public Library, 80 Washington St. Any Winchester resident is welcome to attend Office Hours,

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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